

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 SS-15 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

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AF:RSMITH

USDA/RHARPER

TREASURY:CLEIGH

EB/ITP:JRENNER

STR:HMALMGREN

COMMERCE:FABBUHL

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R 102130Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EC ETRD AG MO TS

SUBJ: REVERSE PREFERENCES FOR MAHGREB

RE: A) LONDON 7557; B) EC BRUSSELS 3674; C) STATE 112063;

D) STATE 88562; E) EC BRUSSELS 1601; F) TUNIS 2925

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVTS INFORMALLY TO ASK THEIR ASSESSMENT OF RECENT EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AND THE EC AGREEMENTS WITH THE MAHGREB COUNTRIES.

2. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATED THAT THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES IS STILL OPEN. EC MEMBER STATES ARE DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER "RECIPROCITY" IN THE FORM OF REVERSE PREFERENCES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A FREE TRADE AREA SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF THE THREE MAHGREB COUNTRIES.

3. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT IT APPEARS TO US THAT A FIRM STAND BY THE MAHGREB COUNTRIES AGAINST SUCH RECIPROCITY COULD BE DECISIVE IN INFLUENCING THE EC COUNCIL TO CHOOSE NOT TO REQUIRE IT IN THE EC'S AGREEMENTS WITH THE MAHGREB, THE YAOUNDE COUNTRIES AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATES. IN ADDITION TO THE WELL-KNOWN STRONG US OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, THE EC MEMBER STATES ARE NOW FEELING THE PRESSURE OF AFRICAN STATEMENTS AGAINST RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES INCLUDING THAT OF OAU CHIEFS OF STATE IN MAY. YOU MAY WISH TO ADD THAT SINCE THE MAHGREB COUNTRIES HAVE RESISTED OR BEEN PREVENTED (TREATY OF ALGERIRAS) FROM GRANTING REVERSE PREFERENCES IN THE PAST CONTINUED RESISTANCE ON THEIR PART IS NOT LIKELY TO COME AS A SURPRISE.

4. YOU SHOULD ADAPT PRESENTATION TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT AVOID A FORMAL DEMARCHE AND NOT LEAVE ANY WRITTEN MATERIAL WITH HOST GOVT OFFICIALS. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY BRIEF THESE OFFICIALS ON US POSITION.
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ON RELATIONSHIP OF REVERSE PREFERENCES TO US GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (REF D) AND EXPRESS HOPE THEIR GOVTS ARE TAKING IT INTO CONSIDERATION

AS A GENERAL MATTER POSTS SHOULD KEEP IN MIND POINTS RELATING TO REVERSE PREFERENCES MADE BY UNDER SECRETARY CASEY (REF E).

5. FOR TUNIS: IN ADDITION TO PARAS 1-4 YOU MAY, IF NECESSARY, DRAW

ATTENTION OF GOT TO EC VIEW THAT GRANTING OF EC AID TO AN LDC IS NOT
LINKED TO RECEIPT OF REVERSE OF PREFERENCES. FYI THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL
SHOULD GOT RAISE QUID PRO QUO AS DESCRIBED REF F. END FYI

6. ALL OTHER ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE GUIDED BY REFS C AND D.
NOTE: WE APPRECIATE USEC SUGGESTION PARA 5 REF B. WE WILL SEND
FURTHER GUIDANCE AFTER ASSESSING RESULTS OF JULY 9-11 OAU MEETING IN
LAGOS WHICH IS PREPARING FOR JULY 25-26 MEETING WITH EC. ROGERS

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TAGS: ETRD, EC, AG, MO, TS
To: ALGIERS TUNIS
Type: TE
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